Glossary of Internet Terms

Anonymous FTP See: FTP

Archie
A tool (software) for finding files stored on anonymous FTP sites. You need to know the exact
file name or part of it to search. See: FTP

BITNET
(Because It's Time Network) -- A network of educational sites separate from the Internet, but e-mail is
freely exchanged between BITNET and the Internet. Listservs, the most popular form of e-mail discussion
groups, originated on BITNET. BITNET machines are IBM VMS machines, and the network is probably
the only international network that is shrinking.

Browser
A client program (software) that is used to look at various kinds of Internet resources. The browser may be
graphical or non-graphical. Integrates many types of media into one consistent interface.
See also: Client, Server, URL, Lynx, Mosaic, Netscape, Internet Explorer,

Client
A software program that is used to contact and obtain data from a Server software program on
another computer, often across a great distance. Each Client program is designed to work with
one or more specific kinds of Server programs, and each Server requires a specific kind of Client.
See also: Server

Cyberspace
Term originated by science fiction author William Gibson in his novel "Neuromancer"(1984), the
word Cyberspace is currently used to describe the whole range of information resources available
through computer networks.

Domain Name
The unique name that identifies an Internet site. Domain Names always have 2 or more parts,
separated by dots. The part on the left is the most specific, and the part on the right is the most
general. A given machine may have more than one Domain Name but a given Domain Name
points to only one machine. Usually, all of the machines on a given network will have the same
thing as the right-hand portion of their Domain Names, e.g.

> trout.ab.umd.edu
> cozyfish.ab.umd.edu
> merlin.ab.umd.edu

and so on. It is also possible for a Domain Name to exist but not be connected to an actual
machine. This is often done so that a group or business can have an Internet e-mail address
without having to establish a real Internet site. In these cases, some real Internet machine must
handle the mail on behalf of the listed Domain Name. See also: IP Number.

E-mail
(Electronic Mail) -- Messages, usually text, sent from one person to another via computer. E-mail can also be sent automatically to a large number of addresses by using a mailing list..
See also: Listserv, Mailing list

FAQ
(Frequently Asked Questions) FAQs are documents that list and answer the most common questions on a particular subject. There are hundreds of FAQs on subjects as diverse as Pet Grooming and Cryptography. FAQs are usually written by people who are tired of answering the same question over and over.

FTP
(File Transfer Protocol) A very common method of moving files between two Internet sites. FTP is a special way to login to another Internet site for the purposes of retrieving and/or sending files. There are many Internet sites that have established publicly accessible repositories of material that can be obtained using FTP, by logging in using the account name "anonymous", thus these sites are called "anonymous ftp servers".

Gopher
A widely successful method of making menus of material available over the Internet. Gopher is a Client and Server style program, which requires that the user have a Gopher Client program. Although Gopher spread rapidly across the globe in only a couple of years, it is being largely supplanted by Hypertext, also known as WWW (World Wide Web). There are still thousands of Gopher Servers on the Internet and we can expect they will remain for a while. See also: Client, Server, Hypertext, VERONICA,

Host
A computer that directly provides service to a user. In contrast to a network server, which provides services to a user through an intermediary host computer.

HTML
(HyperText Markup Language) The coding language used create Hypertext documents for use on the World Wide Web. HTML looks a lot like old-fashioned typesetting code, where you surround a block of text with codes that indicate how it should appear, additionally, in HTML you can specify that a block of text, or a word, is "linked" to another file on the Internet. HTML files are meant to be viewed using a World Wide Web Client program, such as Mosaic.
See also: HTTP, Hypertext, Mosaic, Netscape,

HTTP
(HyperText Transmission Protocol) The protocol for moving hypertext files across the Internet. Requires a HTTP client program on one end, and an HTTP server program on the other end. HTTP is the most important protocol used in the World Wide Web (WWW). See also: Client, Server, WWW

Hypertext
Generally, any text that contains "links" to other documents - words or phrases in the document that can be chosen and which cause another document to be retrieved and displayed.

Internet (upper case I)
The vast collection of inter-connected networks that all use the TCP/IP protocols and that evolved from the ARPANET of the late 60's and early 70's. See also: internet (lower case I)

internet (lower case I)
Any time you connect 2 or more networks together, you have an internet - as in inter-national or inter-state.

Internet Explorer
Microsoft's browser. See also: Browser, Client, WWW

intranet
An internal network used for private or proprietary information.

IP Number
Sometimes called a "dotted quad". A unique number consisting of 4 parts separated by dots, e.g. 134.192.21.141 Every machine that is on the Internet has a unique IP number - if a machine does not have an IP number, it is not really on the Internet. Most machines also have one or more Domain Names that are easier for people to remember. See also: Domain Name, Internet

Listserv
The most common kind of mail list manager software, Listervs originated on BITNET but they are now common on the Internet. See also: BITNET, E-mail, Mailing list

Login
Noun or a verb. Noun: The account name used to gain access to a computer system. Not a secret (contrast with Password)Verb: The act of entering into a computer system, e.g. "Login to umabnet and then go to the web site...." This is also sometimes referred to as logon. See also: Password

Lynx
A text based browser (client) developed at the University of Kansas.
See Also: Mosaic, Netscape, Browser, Client, WWW

Mailing List
A system (usually automated) that allows people to send e-mail to one address, whereupon their message is copied and sent to all of the other subscribers to the mail list. In this way, people who have many different kids of e-mail access can participate in discussions together. The major software in use for managing mailing lists include: listserv, majordomo, and listproc.

Mosaic
The first WWW browser or client software. The source-code to Mosaic has been licensed by several companies. See also: Browser, Client, WWW

Netscape
The best known and most widespread WWW browser or client software. See also: Browser, Client, WWW

Network
Any time you connected 2 or more computers together so that they can share resources you have a computer network. Connect 2 or more networks together and you have an internet. See also: Internet, internet

Newsgroups
The name for discussion groups on Usenet. You need a newsreader client to access the newsgroups. See also: Usenet, Clients

Packet Switching
The method used to move data around on the Internet . In packet switching, all the data coming out of a machine is broken up into chunks, each chunk has the address of where it came from and where it is going. This enables chunks of data from many different sources to co-mingle on the same lines, and be sorted and directed to different routes by special machines along the way. This way many people can use the same lines at the same time.

Password
A code used to gain access to a locked system. Good passwords contain letters and non-letters and are not simple combinations such as "virtue7". A good password might be:
     Hot$1-6
See also: Login

Plug ins
Programs that are linked into a web browser to display special files.

Server
A computer, or a software package, that provides a specific kind of service to client software running on other computers. The term can refer to a particular piece of software, such as a WWW server, or to the machine on which the software is running. A single server machine could have several different server software packages running on it, thus providing many different services to clients on the network . See also: Client, Network

TCP/IP
(Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol) This is the suite of protocols that defines The Internet . Originally designed for the UNIX operating system, TCP/IP software is now available for every major kind of computer operating system. To be truly on the Internet , your computer must run TCP/IP software. See also: IP number, Internet, UNIX

Telnet
The command and program (software) used to login from one Internet site to another. The telnet command/program gets you to the "login:" prompt of another host. See also Host

UNIX
A computer operating system (the basic software running on a computer, underneath things like word processors and spreadsheets). UNIX is designed to be used by many people at the same time (it is "multi-user") and has TCP/IP built-in. It is the most common operating system for servers on the Internet.

URL
 (Uniform Resource Locator) The standard way to give the address of any resource on the Internet that is part of the World Wide Web. A URL looks like this:

> http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/sar.html
> telnet://library.unmc.edu
> news://new.newusers.questions

It has the form protocol :// IP address / filename
The most common way to use a URL is to enter it into a browser program. See also: Browser

Usenet
A world-wide system of discussion groups, with comments passed among hundreds of thousands of machines. Not all Usenet machines are on the Internet , maybe half Usenet is completely decentralized, with over 10,000 discussion areas, called Newsgroups. See also: Newsgroups

VERONICA
(Very Easy Rodent Oriented Net-wide Index to Computerized Archives) Developed at the University of Nevada, Veronica is a constantly updated database of the names of almost every menu item on thousands of gopher servers. The Veronica database can be searched from most major gopher menus. This service has been mostly replaced by the WWW. See also: Gopher

WWW
(World Wide Web) Two meanings - First, loosely used: The whole constellation of resources that can be accessed using Gopher, FTP , HTTP , telnet, Usenet, and some other tools. Second, the universe of hypertext servers (HTTP servers) which are the servers that allow text, graphics, sound files etc. to be mixed together. See also: Browsers, FTP, Gopher, HTTP, Telnet